

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 11288 120025Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMO-01 SNM-05 ABF-01 NSC-05 SS-15
SP-02 PER-01 OMB-01 /046 W
-----095083 122255Z /70
R 111911Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1302
DEAHQS WASHDC

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FOR MATHEA FALCO (S/NM), JOAN CLARK (M/MO), AND
PETER BENSINGER (DEA) FROM THE AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: AODE, SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: MODE - DEA PROPOSED INCREASE IN STAFFING

1. IN AUGUST 1977, EMBASSY RECOMMENDED INCREASE OF FOUR AMERICAN CLERICAL AND ONE FSL CLERICAL POSITIONS TO REGULARIZE STATUS OF PERSONNEL NOW WORKING UNDER CONTRACT. DEA HERE HAS NOW BEEN INFORMED BY ITS HEAD-QUARTERS THAT IT WILL NOT BE AUTHORIZED TO RENEW THESE CONTRACTS AFTER OCTOBER 1.

2. DEA HAS CONVINCED ME THAT THE SERVICES OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE CURRENT OPERATION. TWO OF THESE AMERICANS WORK IN DEA'S FILE ROOM; ONE AMERICAN PROVIDES TRAVEL AND VOUCHER SERVICES FOR OFFICERS CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE; THE FSL SERVES AS A RECEPTIONIST, SCREENING VISITORS TO DEA'S SECURE AREA, SORTING UNCLASSIFIED MAIL AND STAFFING DEA'S SWITCHBOARD WHICH SERVES AS A LOCATOR SERVICE FOR THE 37 DEA PEOPLE ASSIGNED TO MEXICO CITY AS WELL AS FOR THE NUMEROUS TDY PERSONNEL WHO VISIT MEXICO CITY. THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOURTH AMERICAN IS A SECRETARY IN THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICE AND IS THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL IN DEA HERE AUTHORIZED BY THE GOM TO TRANSLATE LEGAL DOCUMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE JANUS PROGRAM.

3. I SHARE THE DEPARTMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO INCREASE THE FORMAL DEA COMPLEMENT IN MEXICO WHEN OTHER AGENCIES,

INCLUDING STATE, ARE BEING FORCED TO ABSORB CUTS. I ALSO UNDERSTAND DEA'S DIFFICULTY IN ELIMINATING ON SHORT NOTICE ESSENTIAL SUPPORT STAFF WITHOUT HAVING TIME TO WORK OUT WITH ITS PARENT AGENCY, JUSTICE, A REPROGRAMMING SCHEME.

4. THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM IS DEA'S LACK OF AUTHORITY FOR PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS, AN AUTHORITY WHICH THE SENIOR ADVISER FOR NARCOTICS HAS BY VIRTUE OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT AUTHORITIES GIVEN TO THE SENIOR ADVISER BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY 104-9. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT AND DEA CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF THE DEPARTMENT'S PICKING UP THE CONTRACTS OF THESE FIVE INDIVIDUALS AFTER OCTOBER 1 ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS, WITH THE CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONTRACTS WILL NOT BE RENEWED AFTER SEPTEMBER 30, 1979, GIVING DEA FIFTEEN MONTHS TO REPROGRAM ITS ACTIVITIES IN MEXICO AND TO ABSORB WHATEVER CUTS THE MODE PROCESS IMPOSES. LUCEY

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